

March 8 - March 14, 2002

The Terra is currently in the process of recovering from a "safe hold" condition that occurred after a 90-degree yaw back to nominal attitude at the conclusion of a successful inclination adjust maneuver at approximately 11:00 a.m. EST on Tuesday, March 19.

Terra Flight Operations Team and spacecraft contractor engineers worked throughout the day on March 19 and into the morning of March 20 to understand the reasons for entering safe hold, extending Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS) contacts for diagnostic commanding and to acquire as much housekeeping data as possible. Thorough analysis confirmed that the safe hold condition resulted from an as-designed flight software response to out-of-limit rates that were sensed onboard MODIS after resetting the Ground Network and Command system to normal mode after conclusion of the yaw back from the minus 90-degree offset that was required for the inclination adjust maneuver.

The CERES and MISR instruments are now back in operations. MODIS is presently cooling down, MOPITT is taking this opportunity to do a decontamination operation, and ASTER requested to resume operations on March 25.

Terra Plans:

The sixth and last of the current planned inclination adjust maneuvers is scheduled for April 2nd. The Terra Flight Operations Team and spacecraft contractor engineers will review and modify current procedures for mode transitions and the timing for filter convergence and reaching acceptable attitude and rate values prior to the next maneuver.

The fourth Terra-based Aqua Ground Network science data loading test will be performed on April 8-10.

